

Purpose

Under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act or CAPTA (Public Law 111-320), a referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect must be made to the early intervention program funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In Missouri, Part C of IDEA is known as First Steps.

The Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division, requires staff to refer any child under age three who meets the criteria of CAPTA to First Steps. This report provides information related to the children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA or DSS in calendar year 2016.

Children Referred to the First Steps Program*

In calendar year 2016, Children's Division reported 1,145 children were eligible for referral to the First Steps program pursuant to CAPTA requirements. During calendar year 2016, 149 children (13.0%) were referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA. Additionally, there were 964 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of Department of Social Services (DSS).

Of the 149 children referred with a referral source of CAPTA, 24 children (16.1%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 125 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 49 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 46 were Part C ineligible; 26 were unable to contact/locate; 3 were refused by SPOE; and 1 was an Inquiry Only.

Of the 964 children referred with a referral source of DSS, 282 children (29.3%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 682 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 247 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 306 were Part C ineligible; 100 were unable to contact/locate; 12 were inquiry only; 12 were refused by SPOE; 1 was Parent Withdrawn/Family Cost Participation; 3 moved out of state; and 1 child was deceased before IFSP could be completed.

*Referral records that were closed with the reason *Inquiry Only* were included in this report.

Active Children by SPOE Region

Table 1 represents the 149 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

Table 1: CAPTA Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2016			
SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	5	1	20.0%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	3	1	33.3%
Region 3 - Northeast	21	3	14.3%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	14	0	0.0%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	3	0	0.0%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	26	4	15.4%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	9	3	33.3%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	19	2	10.5%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	8	3	37.5%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	41	7	17.1%
Total	149	24	16.1%

Table 2 represents the 964 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

Table 2: DSS Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2016			
SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	115	34	29.6%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	106	29	27.4%
Region 3 - Northeast	50	13	26.0%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	60	13	21.7%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	75	15	20.0%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	78	19	24.4%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	80	29	36.3%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	189	55	29.1%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	115	38	33.0%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	96	37	38.5%
Total	964	282	29.3%

For a map of the SPOE regions, visit the First Steps website at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-fs-spo-contact-information-by-region.pdf>

Service Authorizations

Table 3 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 24 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2016, there were a total of 81 active authorizations for the 24 children.

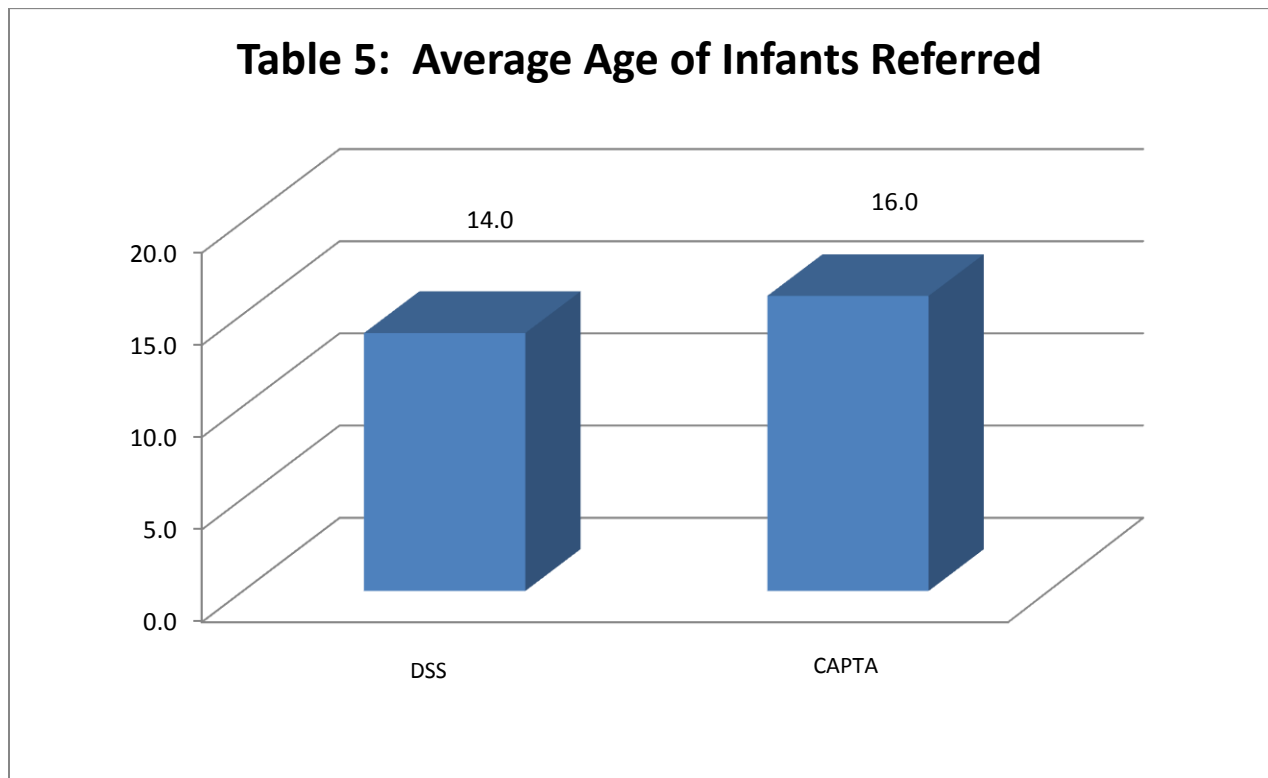
Table 3: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from CAPTA Referrals		
Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
Special Instruction	25	30.9%
EI Testing	20	24.7%
Occupational Therapy	12	14.8%
Speech Language Pathology	10	12.4%
Assistive Technology	4	4.9%
Physical Therapy	4	4.9%
Applied Behavior Analysis	2	2.5%
Counseling	2	2.5%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	2	2.5%
Total	81	100%

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 282 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2016, there were a total of 1,030 active authorizations for the 282 children.

Table 4: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from DSS Referrals		
Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
EI Testing	260	25.4%
Special Instruction	230	22.3%
Speech Language Pathology	163	15.8%
Physical Therapy	150	14.6%
Occupational Therapy	133	12.9%
Assistive Technology	26	2.5%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	23	2.2%
Social Work	15	1.5%
Audiology	12	1.2%
Counseling	9	0.9%
Applied Behavior Analysis	5	0.5%
Vision Services	4	0.4%
Total	1030	100.00%

Average Age

Table 5 represents the average age of the 149 children referred to First Steps by CAPTA and the 964 children referred to First Steps by DSS. The average age of children referred to First Steps in 2016 was 16.0 months for CAPTA referrals and 14.0 months for DSS referrals.



The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Office of the General Counsel, Coordinator – Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; fax number 573-522-4883; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.